(c) whether Government have raised this matter with Government of China in view of safety of Indian borders; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware of some media reports in this regard.

(c) and (d) Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

Joint mechanism for terrorism

1076. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some democratic countries alleged that Pakistan is the epicenter of terrorist activities; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government are agreeing to launch a joint operation with Pakistan against terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Some officials of certain countries involved in International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan are reported to have said that the tribal areas of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan have become a 'safe haven' for terrorists. There have also been media reports about the links of Pakistan based terrorist groups in terrorist activities in other countries.

(b) There is no proposal now to launch a joint operation with Pakistan against terrorism. However, the Joint Terrorism mechanism has been launched with its first meeting held in Pakistan.

Nuclear cooperation with USA

1077. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: